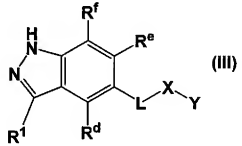
AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. – 19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A compound represented by the formula (III), a salt thereof or a hydrate thereof:



(III)

wherein

R^1 designates a group represented by the formula ~~-~~CR^b~~=~~CR^c~~-~~Ar ~~-(CO)$_h$-(NR^a)$_i$-(CR^b=CR^c)$_k$-Ar-~~ (wherein [[R^a,]] R^b and R^c each independently designate a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyloxy group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylthio group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylthio group, an optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkenyl group, an optionally substituted 4- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted C_{6-14} aryl group or an optionally substituted 5- to 14-membered heteroaryl group; Ar designates an optionally substituted C_{6-14} aryl group or an optionally substituted 5- to 14-membered heteroaryl group; ~~and h, j and k each independently designate 0 or 1, provided that when h and j are 0, k is 1);~~

R^d and R^f each designates a hydrogen atom and R^e designates a halogen atom, hydroxyl group, cyano group, nitro group, carboxyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group, an optionally substituted C_{2-7} acyl group, -CO-$NR^{2a}R^{2b}$, -NR^{2b}CO-R^{2a} or -$NR^{2a}R^{2b}$ [[()] wherein R^{2a} and R^{2b} each independently designate a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group [[)]];

L designates a single bond, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylene group or an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynylene group;

X designates a single bond, or a group represented by -NR^7-, -O-, -CO-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -CO-NR^8-Z-, -C(O)O-, -NR^8-CO-Z-, -NR^8-C(O)O-, -NR^8-S-, -NR^8-SO-, -NR^8-SO_2-Z-, -NR^9-CO-NR^{10}-, -NR^9-CS-NR^{10}-, -$S(O)_m$-NR^{11}-Z-, -C(=NR^{12})-NR^{13}-, -OC(O)-, -OC(O)-NR^{14}- or -CH_2-NR^8-COR^7- [[(]] wherein R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} each independently designate a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyloxy group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylthio group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenylthio group, an optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkenyl group, an optionally substituted 4- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted C_{6-14} aryl group or an optionally substituted 5- to 14-membered heteroaryl group, Z designates a single bond or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group, and m designates 0, 1 or 2 [[)]]; and

Y designates any one group selected from the group consisting of a ~~hydrogen atom,~~ halogen atom, nitro group, hydroxyl group, cyano group, carboxyl group or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group, an optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl group, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group, an optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, an optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkenyl group, an optionally substituted 4- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted C_{6-14} aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- to 14-membered heteroaryl group, an optionally substituted amino group and a group represented by the formula -W-R^{15} [[(]] wherein W designates CO or SO_2; and R^{15} designates an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted C_{6-14} aryl group or an optionally substituted 5- to 14-membered heteroaryl group [[)]].

21. (cancelled).

22. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 20, a salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, wherein R^c is a halogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group.

23. (cancelled).

24. – 48. (cancelled).

49. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 20, a salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, wherein

L and X are a single bond, and

Y is a 5- to 6-membered heteroaryl group, and Y is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 group(s) selected from the group consisting of

(1) (a) C_{1-6} alkyl groups, (b) C_{1-6} alkenyl groups, (c) C_{1-6} alkynyl groups, (d) C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, (e) C_{2-7} acyl groups, (f) amide group, (g) amino group, (h) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl groups, (i) C_{3-8} cycloalkenyl groups, (j) C_{6-14} aryl groups, (k) 5- to 14-membered heteroaryl groups, (l) C_{6-14} aryloxy groups, and (m) 4- to 14-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic groups, each optionally substituted,

(2) halogen atom,

(3) hydroxyl group,

(4) nitro group,

(5) cyano group, and

(6) carboxyl group.

50. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to claim 20, a salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

51. (previously presented) A c-Jun amino-terminal kinase (JNKs) inhibitor comprising the compound according to claim 20, a salt thereof or a hydrate thereof.

52. (previously presented) A c-Jun amino-terminal kinase 1 (JNK 1), c-Jun amino-terminal kinase 2 (JNK 2) and/or c-Jun amino-terminal kinase 3 (JNK 3) inhibitor, comprising the compound according to claim 20, a salt thereof or a hydrate thereof.

53. – 62. (cancelled).